

# COALITION OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN

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Testimony presented to the **PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

## IN SUPPORT OF **SB. No. 966** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PERMITS TO SELL FIREARMS

by Robert T. Crook, Director

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The purpose of this amendment is to allow retailers/dealers to extend the location applicability of the Permit to Sell Pistols and Revolvers from a designated singular location, usually their place of business, to other locations, specifically collectors groups or gun shows.

Over a long period of time, permit holders conducted business at collectors groups and gun shows with no problem. In 1995, however, new interpretation of the law caused four dealers to be arrested at a gun show in Stratford. None were convicted, the cases were dismissed based upon previous enforcement procedures, but the new interpretation was then enforced.

Current procedures force a dealer selling at a gun show or collectors group to obtain an additional permit from the municipality at the event location in addition to having already obtained one at his primary business location. This is excessive. If one is able to obtain a local permit having passed the investigative and business tests, that clearance should not be limited to a single location. The Permit to Sell is printed on a State Form (implying state-wide validity) but issued by municipalities. For a dealer selling at several events, @ \$200 per permit, the business costs become excessive and unwarranted. Most gun shows have 300+ tables.

Every retailer must have a Permit to Carry or Certificate of Eligibility if selling handguns prior to applying for the Permit to Sell (Sec 29-28a). Municipal investigation is mainly concerned with zoning. Other municipalities need accomplish no investigation since gun show promoters must have the permission of the municipality to operate. Selling these duplicate permits is considered a moneymaker.

This amendment language is compatible with Federal law (passed in 1986) which allows certain events or locations to be extensions of the location described in the state permit.

We urge passage.